His MAJESTY's moſt Gracious SPEECH to both Houſes of Parliament, on Thurſday the 26th of October, 1775.

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

THE preſent ſituation of America, and my conſtant deſire to have your advice, concurrence, and aſſiſtance on every important occaſion, have determined me to call you thus early together.

Thoſe who have long too ſucceſsfully laboured to inflame my people in America by groſs miſrepreſentations, and to inſuſe into their minds a ſyſtem of opinions repugnant to the true conſtitution of the colonies, and to their ſubordinate relation to Great Britain, now openly avow their revolt, hoſtility, and rebellion. They have raiſed troops, and are collecting a naval force; they have ſeized the public revenue, and aſſumed to themſelves legiſlative, executive, and judicial powers, which they already exerciſe, in the moſt arbitrary manner, over the perſons and properties of their fellow ſubjects. And although many of theſe unhappy people may ſtill retain their loyalty, and may be too wiſe not to ſee the fatal conſequence of this uſurpation, and will to reſiſt it, yet the torrent of violence has been ſtrong enough to compel their acquieſcence till a ſufficient force ſhall appear to ſupport them.

The authors and promoters of this deſperate conſpiracy have, in the conduct of it, derived great advantage from the difference of our intentions and theirs. They meant only to amuſe by vague expreſſions of attachment to the parent ſtate, and the ſtrongeſt proteſtations of loyalty to me, whilſt they were preparing for a general revolt. On our part, though it was declared in your laſt ſeſſion that the rebellion exiſted within the province of the Maſſachuſet's Bay, yet even that province we wiſhed rather to reclaim than to ſubdue. The reſolutions of parliament breathed a ſpirit of moderation and forbearance, conſiliatory propoſitions accompanied the meaſures taken to enforce authority, and the coercive acts were adapted to caſes of criminal combinations amongſt ſubjects not then in arms. I have acted with the ſame temper, anxious to prevent, if it had been poſſible, the effuſion of the blood of my ſubjects, and the calamities which are inſeparable from a ſtate of war, ſtill hoping that my people in America would have diſcerned the traiterous views of their leaders, and have been convinced, that to be a ſubject of Great Britain, with all its conſequences, is to be the freeſt member of any civil ſociety in the known world.

The rebellious war now levied is become more general, and is manifeſtly carried on for the purpoſe of eſtabliſhing an independent empire. I need not dwell upon the fatal effects of the ſucceſs of ſuch a plan. The object is too important, the ſpirit of the Britiſh nation too high, the reſources with which God hath bleſſed her too numerous, to give up ſo many colonies which ſhe has planted with great induſtry, nurſed with great tenderneſs, encouraged with many commercial advantages, and protected and defended at much expence of blood and treaſure.

It is now become the part of wiſdom, and (in its effects) of clemency, to put a ſpeedy end to theſe diſorders by the moſt deciſive exertions. For this purpoſe, I have increaſed my naval eſtabliſhment, and greatly augmented my land forces, but in ſuch a manner as may be the leaſt burthenſome to my kingdoms.

I have alſo the ſatisfaction to inform you, that I have received the moſt friendly offers of foreign aſſiſtance; and if I ſhall make any treaties in conſequence thereof, they ſhall be laid before you. And I have, in teſtimony of my affection for my people, who can have no cauſe in which I am not equally intereſted, ſent to the garriſons of Gibraltar and Port Mahon a part of my Electoral troops, in order that a larger number of the eſtabliſhed forces of this kingdom may be applied to the maintenance of its authority; and the national militia, planned and regulated with equal regard to the rights, ſafety, and protection of my crown and people, may give a farther extent and activity to our military operations.

When the unhappy and deluded multitude, againſt whom this force will be directed, ſhall become ſenſible of their error, I ſhall be ready to receive the miſled with tenderneſs and mercy.

And in order to prevent the inconveniences which may ariſe from the great diſtance of their ſituation, and to remove as ſoon as poſſible the calamities which they ſuffer, I ſhall give authority to certain perſons upon the ſpot to grant general or particular pardons and indemnities, in ſuch manner, and to ſuch perſons as they ſhall think fit, and to receive the ſubmiſſion of any province or colony which ſhall be diſpoſed to return to its allegiance: It may be alſo proper to authorize the perſons ſo commiſſioned to reſtore ſuch province or colony, ſo returning to its allegiance, to the free exerciſe of its trade and commerce, and to the ſame protection and ſecurity as if ſuch province or colony had never revolted.

Gentlemen of the Houſe of Commons,

I have ordered the proper eſtimates for the enſuing year to be laid before you, and I rely on your affection to me, and your reſolution to maintain the juſt rights of this country, for ſuch ſupplies as the preſent circumſtances of our affairs require. Among the many unavoidable ill conſequences of this rebellion, none affects me more ſenſibly than the extraordinary burthen which it muſt create to my faithful ſubjects.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have fully opened to your views and intentions, the conſtant employment of my thoughts, and the moſt earneſt wiſhes of my heart tend wholly to the ſafety and happineſs of my people, and to the re-eſtabliſhment of order and tranquillity through the ſeveral parts of my dominions, in a cloſe connection and conſtitutional dependance. You ſee the tendency of the preſent diſorders, and I have ſtated to you the meaſures which I mean to purſue for ſuppreſſing them. Whatever remains to be done that may farther contribute to this end, I commit to your wiſdom. And I am happy to add, that, as well from the aſſurances I have received, as from the general appearances of affairs in Europe, I ſee no probability that the meaſures which you may adopt will be interrupted by diſputes with any foreign power.